

Building a Case for Early Learning

A Presentation for Kansas City

October 5, 2023



Peter J. Holt, CEO, HOLT CAT; Chairman
of Spurs Sports and Entertainment

Roland Toscano, Superintendent, East
Central Independent School District

Sarah Baray, CEO, Pre-K 4 SA





What is Pre-K 4 SA?

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

In One Generation

Develop a world-class workforce through high-quality early childhood education.



Pre-K 4 SA Model Schools

Demonstrating what is possible



Professional Learning

Developing highly skilled teacher and leaders



Grants

Expanding access to quality



Family Engagement

Supporting families as the first and most important teachers and advocates



STRATEGIC GOALS



1. **Expand access** to affordable, high-quality prekindergarten for all 3- and 4-year-olds in San Antonio.
2. **Strengthen San Antonio's early learning infrastructure** to create an equitable, affordable, high-quality early learning and care system for young children.
3. **Elevate and support families** as educational partners, leaders, and advocates who nurture and foster the long-term success of children.
4. **Attract, develop, and retain top talent** in the field of early childhood education.
5. Leverage Pre-K 4 SA's position as a national leader and expert in high-quality early learning and care to **advance early childhood policy, research, and innovation.**



EDUCATION CENTERS

Demonstrating What Is Possible

- 2,000 children each year (3 & 4-year-olds)
- Meets highest national standards:
 - Certified teachers with specialized training
 - Evidenced-based curriculum
 - Play-based learning
- Extended hours for working families
- Free transportation





EDUCATION CENTERS

Innovating to Address Challenges

ARTS INFUSION



Pre K-4 SA

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Pre K-4 SA

GARDEN TO TABLE



Pre K-4 SA

OUTDOOR LEARNING



Pre K-4 SA

Water Safety





PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Improving Instruction Birth-3rd Grade

- 20,000+ hours annually—free to participants
- Specialists work in public, private, faith-based schools and centers across the city,
- Providing initial certification (CDA) to 40 educators a year





GRANTS

Increasing Quality and Access

- \$4 Million awarded annually
- Supporting over 4,000 additional children annually
- Awards available to public, private, charter, faith-based programs
- Shared Services to support child development centers as small businesses





FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



Developing Families as Leaders and Advocates

- Over 10,000 family interactions each year
- Services based on family interests and needs
- Connecting families to workforce and post-secondary education
- Families learning from each other



How did Pre-K 4 SA start?

BRAINPOWER TASK FORCE



Julián Castro, Former Mayor of San Antonio

Charles Butt, CEO of H-E-B

General Joe Robles, Former CEO of USAA

Business

Dennis Ahlburg

Ray Berend

Jay Clingman

Elaine Mendoza

Chris Nielson

Marsha Shields

Education

John Folks

Cha Guzman

Adena Loston

Richard Middleton

Harriett Romo

Civic

Vanessa Lacoss Hurd



90%

of brain develops before age 5

1,000,000

synapses per second

MAXIMIZING INVESTMENT



What Pre-K 4 SA means for SA



EDUCATION

Higher educational attainment and lower education costs



INCOME

Increased income levels



HEALTH

Better health outcomes



WORKFORCE

A more capable and productive workforce

VOTERS DECIDE



2012
+53%

Only 87 vote lead after
early voting

2020
+73%

Win secured by end of
early voting



Governance Structure & Finances

GOVERNANCE



- CEO dual reporting relationship
 - City Manager and Board of Directors
- Eleven-Member Board of Directors
 - Appointed by Mayor and City Council
 - Represents business and education community
 - “More Than Advisory”
 - Adopts rules to govern, accepts grants or loans, employs necessary personnel
 - Meets monthly

SALES TAX FUNDING



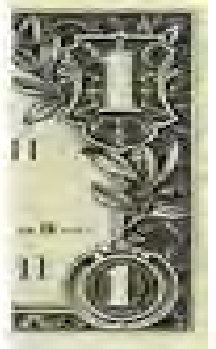
- 1/8 cent sales tax approved by the Citizens of San Antonio in November 2012
- Collected by the State and remitted to the Corporation monthly
- Authorization to collect through March 31, 2029 (reauthorized in November 2020)



State Sales Tax
6.25%



City
1.25%



Transit
.75%

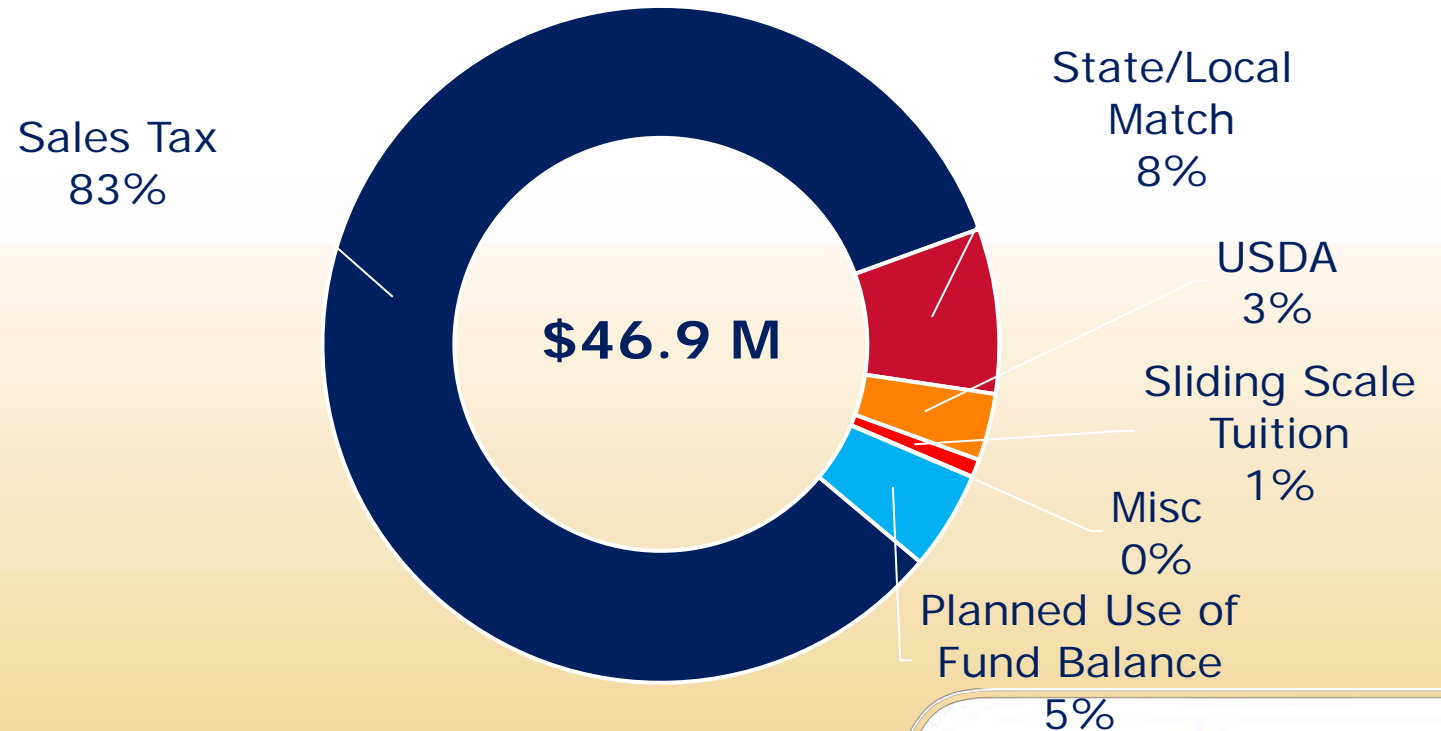
Pre-K 4 SA receives 10% of the total
City Sales Tax

FUNDING MECHANISMS



FY 2022 Adopted Revenue

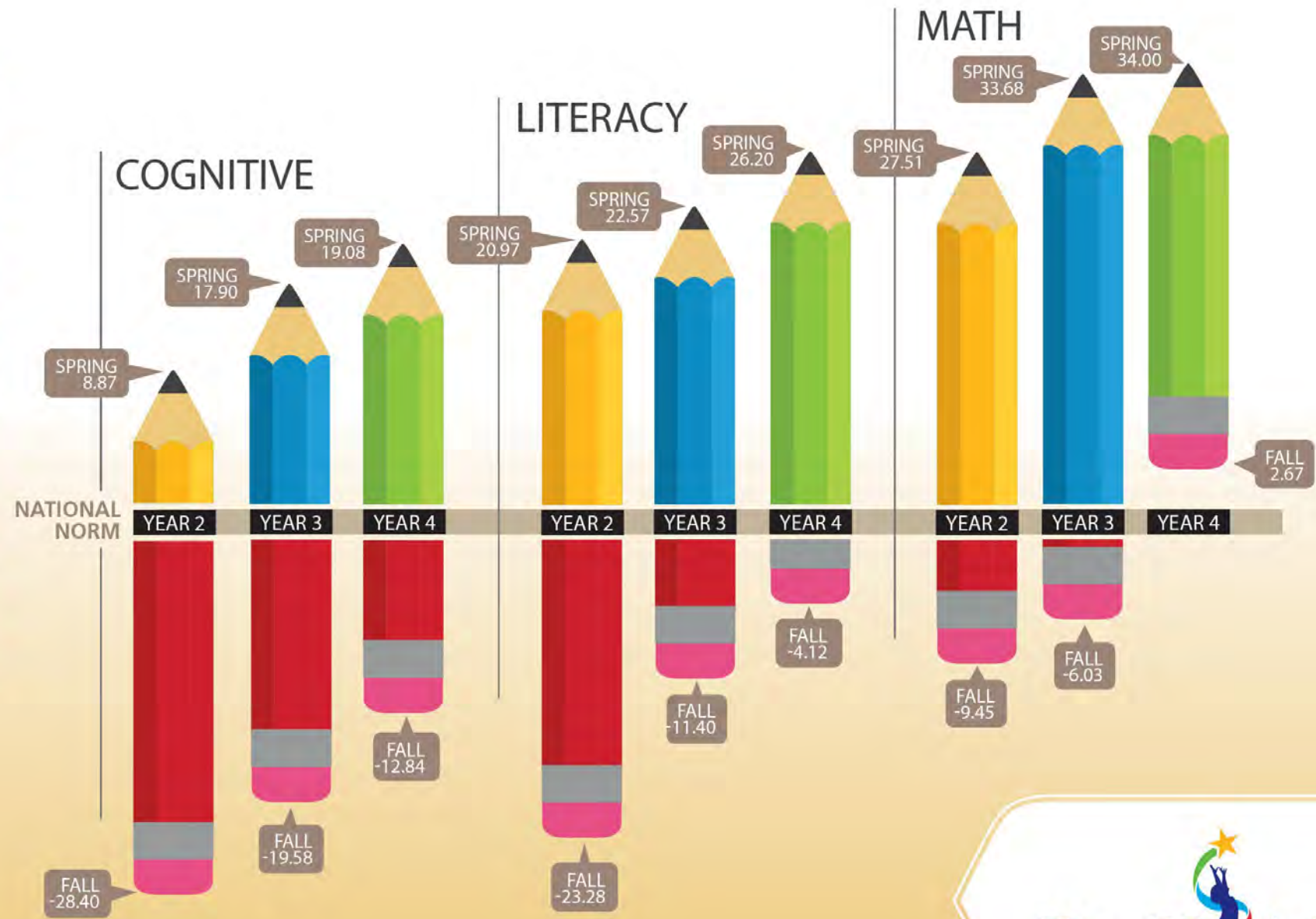
- Fully self-supported by dedicated revenues
 - Does not receive any General Fund dollars
 - Funded primarily by voter approved 1/8¢ sales tax
 - Additional funding = State match, tuition, USDA Grant





Results

Closing the Gap in Kinder Readiness



*Results showed positive student achievement using a nationally recognized testing instrument, Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment, which assesses developmental skills in the following areas: Cognitive, Literacy, Mathematics, Oral Language, Physical Skills, and Social-Emotional.

PRE-K 4 SA COST BENEFIT STUDY



PRE-K 4 SA RETURNED \$59 MILLION IN BENEFITS TO SA IN FIRST 8 YEARS



Source: "Benefit-Cost Analysis of Pre-K 4 SA" by University of Pennsylvania, Teachers College at Columbia University, and Westat

Panel Discussion



Peter J. Holt,
CEO, HOLT CAT; Chairman of
Spurs Sports and Entertainment

Roland Toscano,
Superintendent, East Central
Independent School District

